

151 modern design ideas for every room

# atomic ranch

MIDCENTURY MARVELS

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From the editors of *Romantic Homes*  
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A New Movement in

# MIDCENTURY MODERN

Designs by Joybird Furniture

*Do you remember piling onto your parent's low-slung sofa with the tapered legs as a child to watch television? Or seeing one of those stately Eames lounge chairs with a matching ottoman for the first time? These nostalgic pieces defined a bygone era during the post-war 1950s and '60s, when Jerry Lee Lewis was on the radio, architectural lines from masters like Frank Lloyd Wright were perfectly minimal, and the times were in a word: happy.*



## PAST PERFECT

Whether you experienced this moment in American history firsthand or relived it through your favorite movie or TV drama, culturally our emotional pull to a time more than half a century ago is stronger than ever before. Today, we're gravitating toward the sleek curves of Paul Jensen-inspired Soto chairs, the modular innovation of tufted sectionals and the reason is as clear as their clean lines. The singular mid century modern aesthetic is timeless, iconic and reminiscent of a high point in design that's extremely sentimental.



## SEEKING NOSTALGIA

Midcentury modern devotees understand these vintage pieces provide a cozy picture of the past, and a sense of connection to the old-fashioned values from previous generations. Who wouldn't want to fill their home with subtle reminders of a happier time that also blend seamlessly into most any design style? And so begins the search for midcentury gems to decorate your space. Initially, the desire is to seek out an original, perhaps through a trusted antiques dealer or one of the original manufacturing companies. This option, however, is likely to break the budget for such a lofty splurge, leaving little else to spend on completing your room. An alternate plan is to go the reproduction route. Unfortunately, the result is often times a mass-produced lookalike that lacks the heart and soul or quality of the original, which just leads to buyer's remorse. That's where Joybird comes in.



Liam Patchwork Sofa

## A NEW MOVEMENT

Joybird has captured the era's persistent allure with handcrafted, custom-made furniture that's reassuringly familiar to anyone who remembers it from their childhood home or weekends spent hunting for antiques. Completely rewriting the rules, the online furniture manufacturer works with you to create a perfect piece of high-quality furniture that suits your style and your budget. With limitless customizations including size, an array of fabric choices and wood options, each and every Joybird piece is one-of-a-kind, because that's exactly how you designed it. Whether you're seated on the classic tufted Hughes sofa, the retro Eastwood Swivel chair or the Patchwork Liam, a veritable technicolor photo album of the past, reconnecting with your roots just got a whole lot easier. In the spirit of Edward Wormley's iconic patchwork Dunbar chair and Hans Hopfer's kaleidoscopic Mah Jong lounge sofa for Roche Bobois, the limited edition Patchwork Liam embodies an exuberant twist on modern style with more than 50 prints that even the Brady Bunch would approve.



Eastwood Swivel Chair



Hughes Sofa

*With limitless customizations including size, an array of fabric choices and wood options, each and every Joybird piece is one-of-a-kind, because that's exactly how you designed it.*



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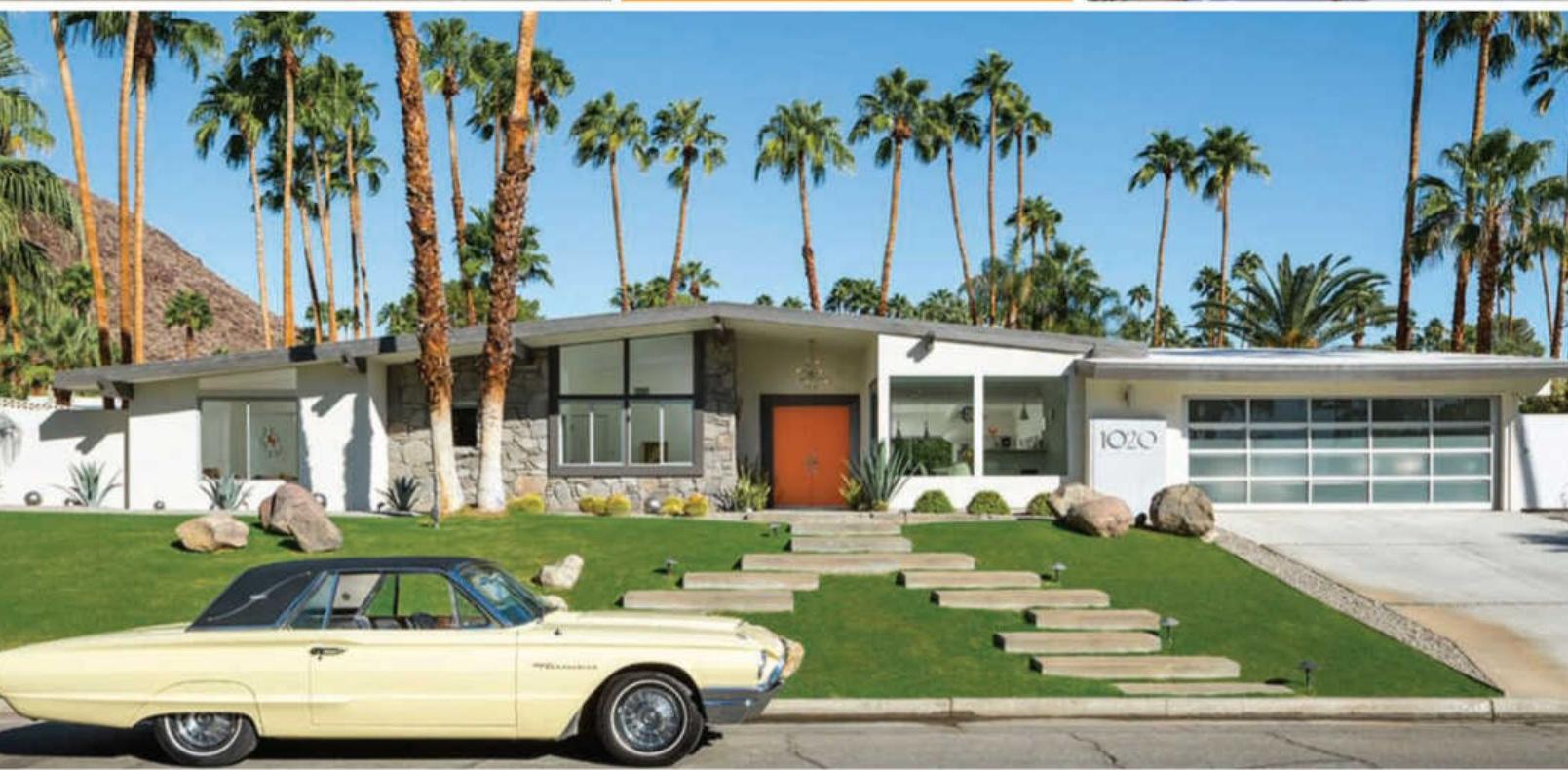
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Photography by Dan Chavkin,

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Cover design by Elena Oh.



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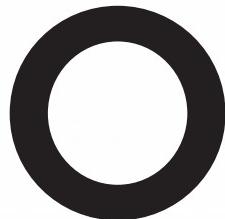
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# meanwhile...

## back at the ranch

### Welcome Home



In behalf of the entire team here at Engaged Media, I would like to extend a cheerful "hello" to our readers both old and new! As the new team behind *Atomic Ranch*, we are excited to continue the magazine's longstanding tradition of high-quality, inspirational content on our favorite topic—midcentury homes.

I too have been a longtime reader of *Atomic Ranch* and am excited to step into the role of editor. As the new editor I look forward to honoring this magazine's well-loved history while bringing readers more—more homes, more history and more information. So far we have introduced digital releases and redesigned atomicranch.com to bring you more of the beautiful and informational stories that you love (as well as throwbacks to stories from early issues) on a weekly basis. Care for a sneak peek of what else there is to come? You can look forward to expanded newsstand availability as well as plenty of extra content.

This issue is brimming with color. From bright houses to great products and sunny landscaping, the spring 2016 issue takes full advantage of its seasonality. I hope that you enjoy this new issue of *Atomic Ranch* as much as the team here at Engaged Media enjoyed creating it for you.

Send us your feedback, show us your homes and ask us your questions!

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**HAIKU**



# modern wisdom

**WHEN MY HUSBAND GAYLORD AND I** first came to see our new home, the then-owners had put a chain lock across the door, apparently unaware of our showing appointment. Our realtor made no attempt to show us the house again and we ended up putting an offer on a short sale 1930s home. During the five months we waited to hear if our offer was accepted I discovered *Atomic Ranch* and after re-reading every article and ordering all the back issues, I decided to pull our offer in hopes of finding a midcentury home. My mind went back to the split-level house—and this time we were able to see the inside. Although it needed a lot of restoration and remodeling, we were able to see what it could be and fell in love.

Remodeling was quite an undertaking; I thought all our projects would be done in one summer. It's been six years and we're still working on it—but this is a labor of love and the house is a part of the family now. We even got married in the backyard!

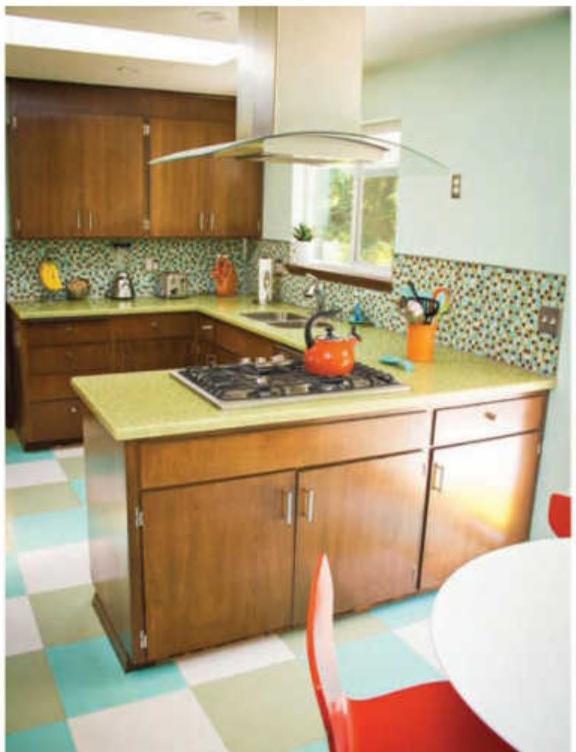
In the kitchen we used white, sage green and aqua vinyl tile in a checkerboard pattern. We kept the original kitchen cabinets and searched for appliances that would fit perfectly in the existing spaces. We took out the upper cabinet that divided the cooking area with the eat-in kitchen for more space and installed a modern vent over the stovetop in its place. Next it was time for the recycled glass green countertops and one-inch glass tile backsplash from ModWalls.

We also bought all new light fixtures including a 48-arm sputnik for our entryway from Practical Props. We also commissioned Studio 23 Metalworks to make a new banister to replace the wrought iron one.

If I had known then what I know now I would have done a few things differently. Instead of being in a rush to finish things, I would have taken more time to look for vintage items and pieces of furniture instead of buying reproductions that would fit the space and could be delivered in a week. I also would not have been so quick to replace the original windows and paint over the original brown and orange of the exterior. My biggest regret was moving the doorknob on the front door from the original 5" to the standard 2 ¾" of today. I have since found replacement hardware and plan to move it back, perhaps with some strategically placed diamond-shaped piece of modeling over the hole I made.

Remodeling this house has been the culmination of my creative abilities and a testament to the strength of my marriage (it's tough to remodel together), and an example of the beliefs we share about life—keep it simple and clean, and value the past.

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Photo by Tim Street Porter of  
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## Retro Revival

Modern pieces with throwback style are more than on-trend elements. For midcentury homes and midcentury design enthusiasts alike, they are décor staples.



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# homepage

TEXT | HANNAH ROBERTS

While I come to terms with the fact that I do indeed have the privilege of working on the same *Atomic Ranch* I used to pick up at Barnes & Noble, I can't help but find myself scrolling through the archives time and time again. All of the good stuff that's come to light over the past decade of AR makes me even more excited for the future. With that said, here are a couple of my favorite Jim Brown shoots from long-ago issues:

## Issue #1 – “Orange Juice”

Orange County was the first part of California I got to know when I moved eight years ago, and I sometimes find my Los Angelino self pining for Newport Beach or the big open freeways near Disneyland. This classic Eichler from the inaugural issue of AR, like my own relocation out west, was a big step towards a brighter future. As OC broker and MCM enthusiast Stephanie Raffel noted, “Even though [Eichlers] are ... higher maintenance, people are looking for something with architectural style—something that’s noteworthy.”

## Issue #14 – “PS, They Love You”

As I gear up for Palm Springs Modernism Week, I am blown away by the dedication that entire city has for keeping midcentury marvels shining. Patrick Seabol's steel-and-glass abode, artfully captured by Jim, gives off that sleek Donald Wexler vibe that makes anything else seem illogical. The beauty of midcentury to me lies in its adaptability—an MCM home can be easily geared towards affordability, sustainability (like the solar features here), or any other worthwhile priority without losing its classic touch.

## Issue #17 – “One Man’s Nirvana”

I'd be remiss to restrict myself to the state I call home—and this attractive Denver A-frame was a good reminder why. The 10,000-square-foot lot on this H.B. Wolff gem has me wondering why I've never invested in a tranquility fountain or two. The clean frame lines throughout keep everything centered, and it all goes to show you that real feng shui starts with a home's bones.

Want your home to be featured? Send sharp photos and a couple of sentences about your ranch to: [editor@atomic-ranch.com](mailto:editor@atomic-ranch.com).



Orange County, Calif.

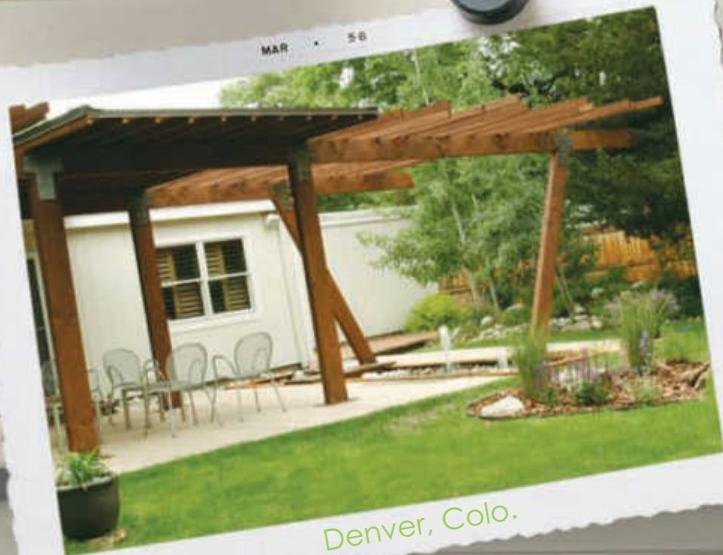


Palm Springs, Calif.



P

H



Denver, Colo.



# PRESERVATION & PERSONALITY

A dream-worthy midcentury house becomes a home with a unique blending of vintage treasures and modern finds.

text | Autumn Krause

images | Courtney Apple



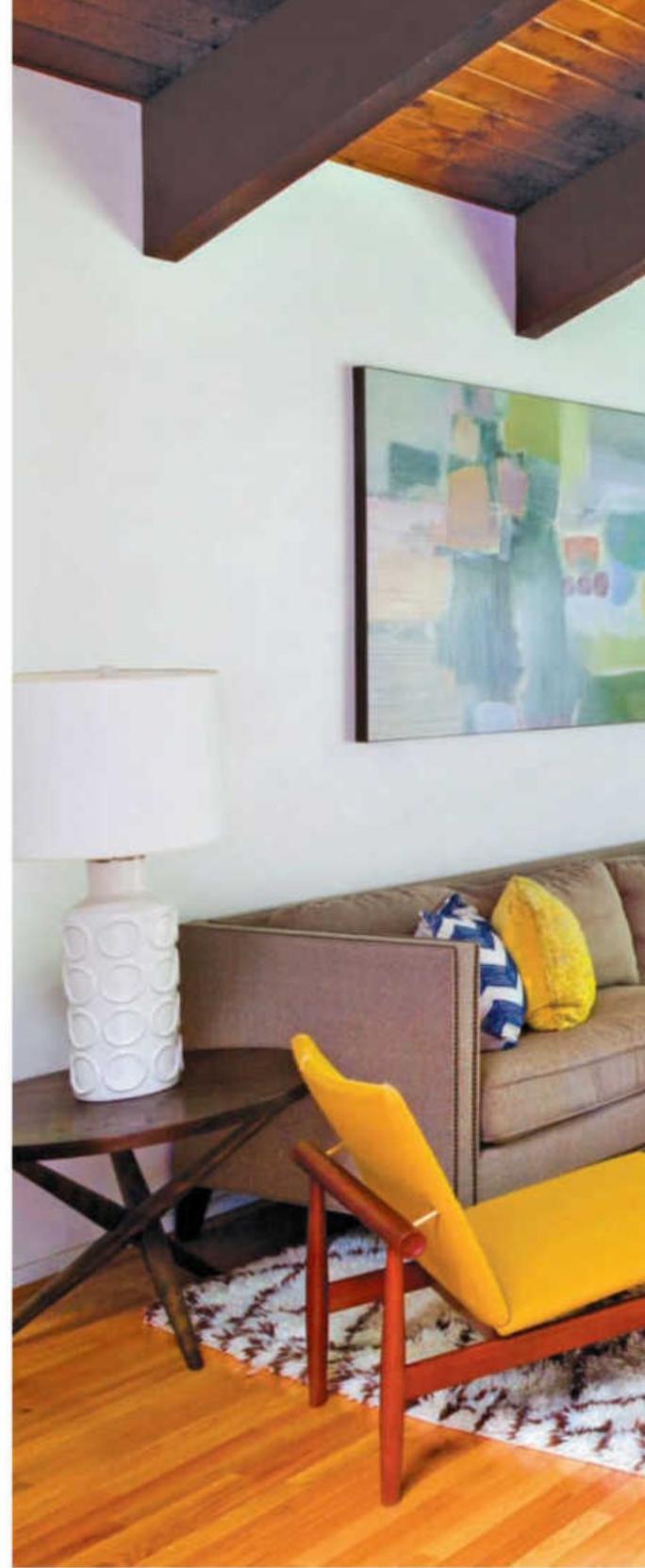
SUNKEN BELOW THE ENTRYWAY, THE DINING ROOM WELCOMES GUESTS WITH AN EYE-CATCHING VINTAGE SPUTNIK CHANDELIER. FEATURING THE ORIGINAL BUFFET AND MIRROR, GEORGE ACCENTED THE OAK FLOORS WITH AN ECLECTIC MIX OF VINTAGE WALNUT, INCLUDING CHERNER END CHAIRS. THE WIDDICOMB BENCH IN THE FOYER ABOVE OFFERS A STUNNING DOSE OF COLOR TO THE WARM SPACE.

## WHILE HELPING A FRIEND LOOK ONLINE FOR

**REAL ESTATE,** George Marrone and Michael Nocera stumbled upon a listing for an artist-built 1959 house set on just over an acre of land with lush gardens and a creek. In a neighborhood filled with colonials, capes and Tudors, the Midcentury Modern home stood out, embodying artist-built architecture and captivating the couple.

Seeing beyond its shag carpets and heavy window coverings to the beautiful bones underneath, George and Michael had found a well-preserved home where they could infuse their style with iconic midcentury elements. For George, the home told a story he'd loved since childhood: "As a kid growing up in the '70s, I really loved the Brady Bunch house," he says. "I feel I found one with those same sensibilities."

As they fit their home to their aesthetic, George and Michael balanced new changes with the house's existing beauty. "It was in need of light, light and more light! I wanted to really let the outdoors in and embrace the landscape," George says.



GEORGE AND MICHAEL CHOSE TO EMBRACE THE NEUTRAL-TONED FLAGSTONE ON THE FIREPLACE—LEAVING THE HOME'S MASSIVE CENTERPIECE IN ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION.



“You can have a modern home that is curated yet practical and comfortable for everyone.”



In the living room, the heavy window valances were removed, allowing natural light to filter into the space and creating a seamless transition between the house and outdoors. They added oak hardwood floors to the room and painted the walls and trim white while leaving the original flagstone fireplace in its natural beauty.

When it came to decorating, George—who scours flea

markets, auctions, and boutiques while he travels—envisioned a style that was not “kitschy Midcentury Modern” but instead “sophisticated, elegant and modern.” He set a Finn Juhl Japan chair, Mitchell Gold sofa, and Paul McCobb coffee table atop a patterned Pottery Barn rug. He placed a Jonathan Adler horse on the hearth alongside some punchy red cubes. The areas represent his decorating inspirations:



RATHER THAN ASCRIBING TO AN ENTIRELY VINTAGE COLLECTION OF FURNISHINGS AND ACCENTS, GEORGE HAS FOUND A CREATIVE AND CHIC WAY TO BALANCE OLD AND NEW ELEMENTS IN EACH ROOM. THE END RESULT, AS SEEN HERE IN THE DEN, IS A DESIGN THAT CELEBRATES THE HOME'S AGE WHILE SHOWCASING THE COUPLE'S PERSONAL STYLES.



a mix of old and new pieces that are imbued with the history and elegant vibe of Midcentury Modern designs.

For the glass-walled den, George and Michael left the slate stairs that brought guests around to the other side of the fireplace. The den features the house's original walnut bookcase, working indoor grill, and lighting fixtures. In lieu of making major renovations to the space, the couple opted for cosmetic changes instead to enhance its Midcentury Modern look. George hung a red George Nelson clock on the wall and placed white pottery on the bookshelf, citing his love for the look of white pottery against the walnut. He also mixed in the vintage pieces and books that he had collected over the years.

The seating area was inspired by the colors of the vintage Bitossi lamp that George placed near the Mitchell Gold sofa. He chose a Jonathan Adler screen to pop against the walnut walls and add dimension to the sleek room. He thoughtfully chose a range of unique seating options, including a vintage Pierre Jeanneret for Knoll scissor chair (which George nicely

DESPITE THE ORIGINAL CADÔ WALL UNIT, IT IS THE KNOLL WOMB CHAIR IN CATO ORANGE FABRIC THAT STEALS THE SHOW IN THE LIVING ROOM.



IN THE KITCHEN, ORIGINAL ELEMENTS LIKE THE CLOCK AND RANGE HOOD ARE ACCENTED BY SOME MODERN-YET-MIDCENTURY-FRIENDLY UPDATES. NEW CORK FLOORS, QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS, A GLASS BACKSPLASH, MAPLE CABINETS AND STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES WORK TOGETHER TO MEET MODERN NEEDS WHILE HONORING THE HOME'S AGE.



George scoured flea markets, auctions and boutiques to curate the home to his desired aesthetic of  
“sophisticated, elegant and modern.”



accented with a vintage Zebra pillow) and a luxurious vintage Knoll Barcelona daybed positioned against the den's windowed wall. "Relaxing on the daybed is wonderful year-round," George says. "The rock walls surround you just beyond the windows."

For the upstairs den, George placed multiple art pieces on the white walls in an effortless, gallery-inspired hanging, letting the wall art be the focal point of the room. "I just pulled together various pieces and spaced them out until it felt right," he says of his organic process. Unafraid of bold décor moves, George even placed a framed art print on the ground, leaning it against the wall. "Mixing various sources, old and new, high and low creates the most interesting spaces," he says. To tie everything together, he anchored the space with a tulip chair and vintage desk. For a touch of edgy whimsy, he painted a faux turtle shell and gardening stool in bright yellow.

In the end, George's design philosophy—"surround yourself with things you love and don't worry about pedigree"—is evidenced throughout his and Michael's home, where the past and present mingle in an artistic expression of a Midcentury Modern house. It's living proof that, as George puts it, "you can have a modern home that is curated yet practical and comfortable for everyone." ☀



**George fully embraced the multi-level home by coordinating the spaces to have shared, uncluttered focal points.**





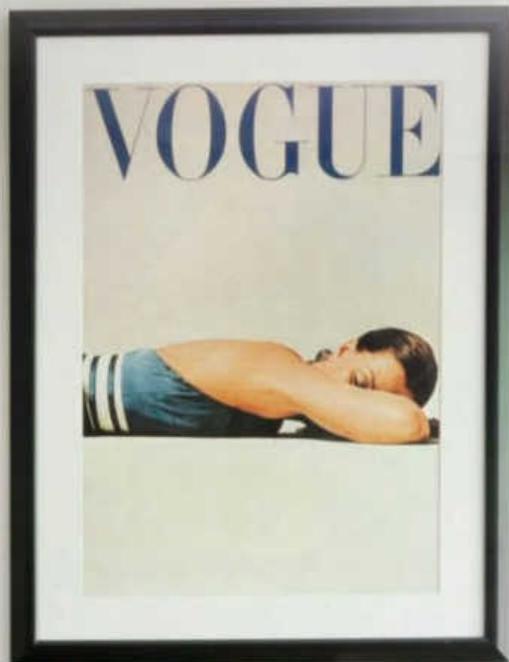
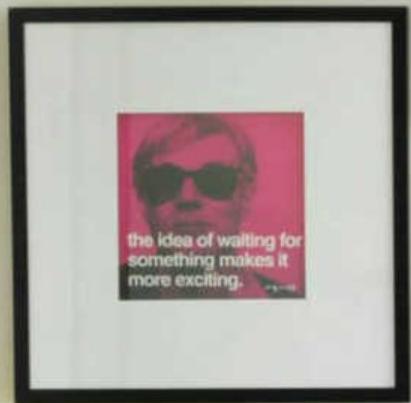
THE CATWALK BOASTS A VIBRANT COLLECTION OF VINTAGE AND MODERN ELEMENTS. A VINTAGE OIL PAINTING BRIGHTENS THE FIREPLACE, WHILE A MITCHELL GOLD CONSOLE TABLE, C. JERE BRASS SUNBURST AND MODERNICA PLANTER TIE THE SPACE IN TO THE LIVING ROOM VISIBLE BELOW.



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GEORGE ACCENTED THE GUEST BEDROOM WITH A MIX OF OLD AND NEW—SUCH AS THE JONATHAN ADLER AND VINTAGE GLASS VASES. THE BEDSIDE LAMPS CAME FROM AN AUCTION, WHILE THE BEDDING WAS FOUND AT CRATE AND BARREL FOR A DOSE OF FRESH PATTERN.





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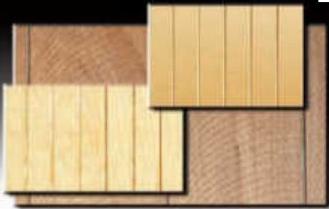
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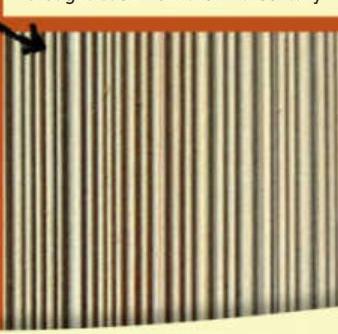
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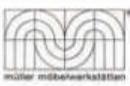
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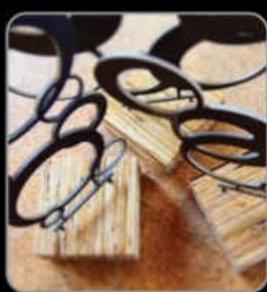
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# Just Add Art

**text | Sarah Jane Stone  
images | Dan Chavkin**

A well-planned remodel,  
vibrant color and an  
incredible art collection  
brought this home back  
to its original glory.

## Located in the Vista Las Palmas

neighborhood of Palm Springs, Robert Shiell describes his home as a classic, quintessential Alexander home.

The house was originally completed by Krisel and Palmer architects in 1959 and was built by the Alexander Company. After purchasing the home, Robert restored it back to its original footprint with the help of Architect Lance C. O'Donnell, AIA, Principal of o2 Architecture, and Craig M. Hammond, Assoc. AIA, Design Director of Hammond Habitat Design Studio. In his desire to honor the intended floor plan, he actually reduced the house from a 300-square-foot addition completed by a previous owner. This addition had extended the living room, but caused the breezeway to be lost. Robert reestablished the breezeway and converted the garage back to a carport. "The house originally had two bedrooms and two baths, but someone added a third bath," he said.



ROBERT'S ART IS SAFEGUARDED BY UV WINDOWS. HE HAD SUNBRELLA COVERS MADE TO COVER THE ART DURING THE STINTS WHEN HE LEAVES TO SPEND TIME IN HIS LOS ANGELES HOME.





**“I have a killer view—it was one of the draw-ins along with the bones— I couldn’t top this.”**

After 27 years as an attorney working in children's law and representing social workers for the City of Los Angeles, Robert retired. He now manages properties and focuses on his passion for collecting art. "I caught the art-collecting bug in early college years," Robert says. In renovating the Palm Springs home, Robert paid special attention to the walls—ensuring that he would be able to display art on every wall and specifically arranging lighting to showcase his collection.

#### FINDING “THE ONE”

"My house in LA is from 1926 and is English storybook-like, but I've always had a bug for and interest in midcentury style." With a piquing interest in midcentury architecture, Robert went on a Palm Springs home tour that profiled mid-century homes and attended Modernism Week.

"I had been looking for a while and wanted a home by a noted architect. In my neighborhood the primary architect was Krisel and Palmer—there are also a few by Charles Dubois." Robert was drawn to the neighborhood due to its high concentration of midcentury homes. "I didn't want a home that was too damaged—I definitely wanted good bones." In April 2013, just two weeks after retiring, Robert was the first person to see the house, and he made an offer within a few hours. In December 2013, the demolition and renovation began.

#### THE TASK LIST

Among the most pressing items on Robert's renovation list was that fact that the home needed insulation and that the plumbing and piping were in need of repair and updating. Despite this being Robert's first time taking on the renovation of a residence, he was determined to do everything right. "In projects like these things are often underestimated. I wanted to do the most quality work with the long-term of the home in mind," he said.

Despite the reduction of the home's square footage, some areas inside were updated to offer more breathing room. "The once-claustrophobic master bathroom was renovated to feel far more spacious by raising the ceiling, inserting a clerestory window, and creating an outdoor shower, thereby renewing the home's indoor/outdoor connection," architect Craig M. Hammond says.



ROBERT HAS JOINED THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM, AND IN MARCH THE COUNCIL WILL VISIT HIS HOME TO SEE THE ART.



THERE IS EASY ACCESS FROM THE OUTDOOR SHOWER TO ROBERT'S ORANGE-TILED BATHROOM.

**“This has become my personality.”**

“Originally, clerestory windows were only located on the front of the house, robbing the homeowner [of the view of] the San Jacinto Mountains located directly behind the house,” Craig says. “The challenge of inserting clerestory windows on the back, westward-facing side of the home was addressed by adding shear walls between the clerestories.” The clerestory windows allow the home’s structure to frame the view of the San Jacintos, giving a stunning backdrop to the living room, master bedroom and master bath. The extra windows also increase the amount of natural light let in—which, according to Craig, has the two-fold benefit of making the home’s interior space feel larger and celebrating the desert landscape.

“Your initial budget doesn’t mean anything,” Robert said. “You never know what problem will come up.” The investment of \$400K in the renovation included major work to the roof. The new roof structure is still consistent with the original but is now insulated and hosts built-in lighting—which is perfectly set up for showcasing his art collection.

#### ADDING ART

With the renovation completed in October 2014, Robert was able to turn his attention over to the home’s interior. “I was pleased that this home already provided a clean palette for artwork—anchored by the outdoor picture of nature,” Craig says. “As such, the first design priority I envisioned was to capture nature’s palette. The home’s clean lines and white walls set the scene for Robert’s collection of fine art, and this created the perfect opportunity to use each window as a frame for the spectacular outdoor backdrop of nature provided by the Palm Springs setting.”

Wanting control of the finished look, Robert chose the lighting, hardware and fixtures himself. “I had so much fun searching out the tile and finishes,” he said. The tiles throughout the home were handmade in the USA by Mod Works.



ROBERT HAS BALANCED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE MIDCENTURY RESTORATION WITH HINTS OF HIS OWN PERSONALITY AND TASTES BY FULLY EMBRACING MIDCENTURY STYLE. "THIS HAS BECOME MY PERSONALITY," HE SAYS. HE ATTENDS POTTERY SHOWS, GOES TO DESIGN DISTRICTS AND HAS APPROACHED IT ALL WITH A SENSE OF JOY. "I'VE BEEN A KID ABOUT IT!"



Robert's goal was to make a timeless, classic space. He opted for the same caesarstone color and knobs throughout the kitchen and baths—creating a modern yet consistent aesthetic. "Nothing could be salvaged from the original build, it was already gone," he said. Cringe-worthy work had gone into tearing the home away from its midcentury roots, and Robert worked diligently to eliminate those changes.

Pure white paint and cement floors throughout the home make it bright and airy, while offering a prime backdrop for Robert's art and limiting distraction from the mountain views. Eclectic touches from the '70s, glass and ceramic accent pieces in the media room and vintage shelving round out some of Robert's décor. Robert worked with Brandon Morrison of whyrHymer to make the living room sofas, end tables and coffee table as well as the dining room chairs and table—all out of walnut.

## OUTDOOR LIVING

Robert desired a terrific indoor/outdoor relationship for the home. This was partially achieved by tearing down the addition, making the interior's connection to the yard much more direct. Robert also added a fire pit, spa and outdoor speakers.

After interviewing three landscapers, Robert made his selection. "The landscape design is very, very important to me," he said. Opting for a more drought-tolerant design, Robert added plants such as aloe vera around the outdoor shower—but also included a few fruit trees for a fresh touch. Prior to the landscaping installation, Robert only shared the design with his architect, who edited it slightly to keep it from being too busy or competing with the house.

In retrospect, Robert is happy with the experience and the finished product, but he didn't expect the renovation process to be quite as extensive as it turned out to be. "I learned it's a difficult, challenging process, but I actually really enjoyed it," he says. ☀





IN ROBERT'S NEIGHBORHOOD,  
DOZENS OF DEDICATED MIDCENTURY  
ENTHUSIASTS ARE BRINGING HOMES  
BACK TO THEIR VINTAGE ROOTS.

Luckily for Robert, the original cement-block wall out front was in good condition. It was simply covered by bushes—which he promptly tore out.



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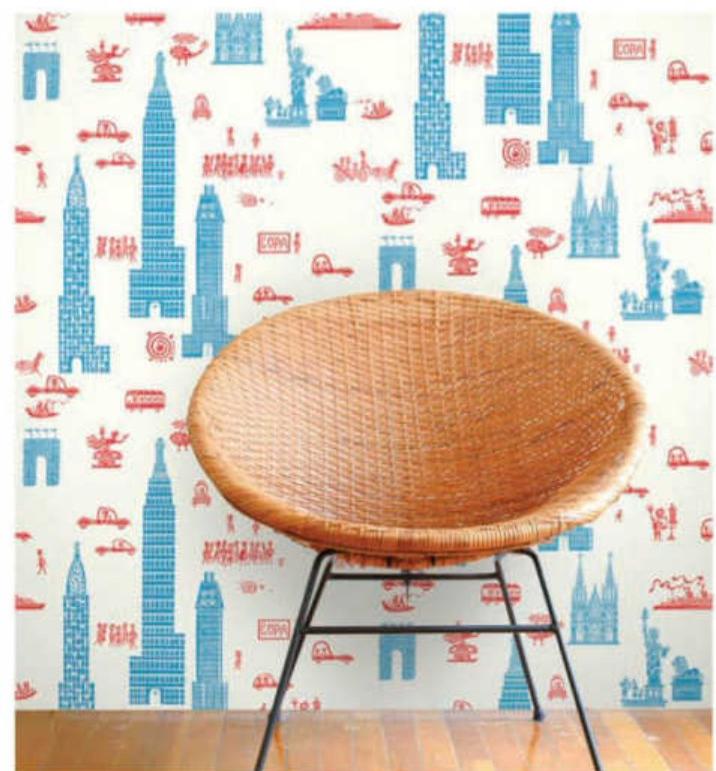
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# Color

Brimming with retro charm, this second-owner home holds true to its roots thanks to DIY restoration.

**text** | Anne Kruse  
**images** | Jim Brown Photography

# THE PHRASE

"History repeats itself" often has a negative connotation; but when Lisa and Steve Harding entered this modest-sized, quintessential atomic ranch home for the first time, they were eager to repeat history—1,864 square feet at a time.

Nestled in a North Tustin, California neighborhood established in 1953, the home was weathered by the years—still, an obvious pride-of-ownership elevated the home into something special. From the intact and well-maintained, 62-year-old scallop-edged garage door, to the thickly painted floral medallion affixed to the original front door, to the stellar condition of the wood floors, nothing in this home could be considered run-down.

The Hardings graciously took the reins from the original owners, hoping to return the home to its glory days by restoring the old, adding modern amenities, and calling it home. Lisa and Steve are no strangers to Midcentury Modern remodels. With two properties in Palm Springs under their belts, they knew that a well-laid plan was essential. The Tustin home required more do-it-yourself labor, which at times amplified the "Why?" in D-I-Y. Steve's forte encompasses structural-foundation issues, while Lisa's vision for the property guides décor, style, color choices and overall historical preservation.

"We were drawn to the original wood floors, paneling, the turquoise-tiled bathroom, the 'Mamie Eisenhower pink' bathroom and even the charming-yet-drafty double-hung windows," Lisa says. Kitchen updates in the late '70s and early '80s made for a muddled mess that seemingly came straight from the set of *The Merv Griffin Show*, so it had to go. "Every surface edge was rounded: cabinets, countertops, as well as vertical and horizontal wall joints—which we chiseled out and returned to 90-degree angles."



"THE SWEAT-EQUITY NEEDED TO PAINT THE INTERIOR OF THE WHOLE HOUSE WAS IMMENSE AND REQUIRED A LOT OF FAVORS FROM FAMILY. BETWEEN ME, MY SISTER AND SISTER-IN-LAW, OUR SPORADIC-YET-VALIANT EFFORTS TALLIED 14 DAYS TO GET IT ALL DONE," LISA SAID. "WE'RE SO THANKFUL FOR ALL THE HELP."



**"We were drawn to the original wood floors, paneling, the turquoise-tiled bathroom, the 'Mamie Eisenhower pink' bathroom and even the charming-yet-drafty double-hung windows."**





**Steve and Lisa paid more than budgeted for the kitchen cabinets; but they wanted slab-front fir doors and drawers to pay homage to the originals.**

#### SAVING THE PINK

Raised foundations allow certain rewards—especially when it comes to saving pink bathrooms. Venturing into the extremely crowded crawlspace, Steve soon discovered plumbing problems that had gone undetected for years and were underestimated during the escrow inspection. “Our bathroom adventure started with the first plumber’s ridiculous estimate of \$4500. They wanted to tear everything out and even demolish some stucco. Certain plumbers ‘remove and replace’ rather than fix,” Steve said.

This was Lisa’s first call-to-action for preservation. If the recommended work were to be executed, the pink shower would be destroyed. “Mamie Eisenhower would have flipped out, and so would I, if that vintage pink shower went bye-bye. We had to do something,” Lisa said.

A well-respected referral, Comstock Plumbing in Fullerton, CA, saved the day. “They endured the cramped crawlspace without complaint, spent a few hours under the house, replaced several feet of pipe and rang up a well-earned bill for a mere \$700,” Steve said.



STEVE IS A PROPERTY MANAGER WHO HAS BEEN RESTORING PROPERTIES WITH LISA FOR FIVE YEARS. THEY WERE BOTH CALIFORNIA MIDCENTURY BORN, AND GREW TO BE MIDCENTURY MODERN ENTHUSIASTS. LISA NEVER LET GO OF HER CHILDHOOD INTRIGUE FOR MID-MOD ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, WHICH WAS INFLUENCED BY HER HIPPER-THAN-NORMAL GRANDMA, HELEN KRUSE.

The plumbers did such a great job, it inspired an idea: Could the plumbing be reconfigured to enlarge the master bathroom and preserve the pink shower? Although not an immediate necessity, it ended up being a great decision for the couple. The entry door, which oddly opened into an adjacent bedroom, was closed off and moved to a spot inside the master bedroom. This allowed an expansion from 5' x 6' to a roomy 5' x 14'. A single pink sink with an extremely small vanity measuring 24" wide by 21" deep was replaced by a custom two-sink vanity designed to fit the new space. The glass sliders in the shower were removed and replaced with a single sheet of tempered glass.

A lot of elbow grease got the tiles cleaned, and a hand-rubbed polish made them shine like new. The pink bathroom of Lisa's dreams was becoming a reality. After some research, Lisa found the essential pink-and-gray tile needed for the new vanity at B&W Tile in Riverside, CA, which specializes in hard-to-find tile from the mid-mod era. She promised Steve that she'd incorporate gray tile for neutrality, and Steve conceded. "She was right. Everyone's skin tones look great in a pink bathroom," he said.

WHILE THIS HOME'S MASTER BED-  
ROOM AND PINK BATHROOM WERE  
ADDED IN 1961, LISA DESCRIBES THEM  
AS "A LITTLE LATE TO THE PARTY; BUT  
[THEY ARE] PINK NONETHELESS."



"The original bathroom had only one pink sink, which was reused. I found a second pink sink on Craigslist, drove 200 miles and got it the next day. In my opinion, there is nothing more iconic in a 1950s home than a pink bathroom. Based on what I see on my social media channels, there are more and more people choosing to save these vintage bathrooms, rather than rip them out," Lisa said. "Creating a hybrid midcentury detailed bathroom using the original sink and shower was so fulfilling."

#### KITCHEN REMODEL

According to Lisa, "We had to demo the kitchen down to the studs and start with a clean canvas."

A complete gutting was imperative for the kitchen—rendering certain splurges essential. A new arrangement of cabinets and appliances required the doorway leading to the laundry room to be closed off. A second doorway was widened to improve the home's overall flow from the front door, through the living room, the kitchen and into the step-down dining room. With drywall and patching complete, the electrical work county-approved, and the walls and ceiling painted, the kitchen took shape.

Flooring came first. Lisa laid out a pattern of colored VCT tile and worked alongside the installers. Piece by piece, row by row, they worked together as Lisa directed and the installers positioned each tile according to Lisa's design. Although the flooring was a random pattern, there was nothing truly random about it. "I didn't want to leave the placement of any tile to chance," Lisa said.

Steve and Lisa paid more than budgeted for the kitchen cabinets; but they wanted slab-front fir doors and drawers to pay homage to the originals. "Our next-door-neighbor has original cabinets in her 1950s kitchen and we really couldn't help ourselves."

**"Creating a hybrid midcentury detailed bathroom using the original sink and shower was so fulfilling."**



THE HOME BOASTS PLENTY OF CURB APPEAL, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL FLORAL MEDALLION AND THE STILL-INTACT, 62-YEAR-OLD SCALLOP-EDGED GARAGE DOOR.

Another “must-have” was the custom tile backsplash Lisa designed through ModWalls. The charm and cheery vibe of the pattern inspired Lisa to name it “Happy Lass,” since the house is on Lassen Way. Next, appliances were installed; and once the coffeemaker was cleaned of construction dust and took its proper place on the counter, they had a kitchen and the house started to feel like a home.

#### DECORATION DIARIES

“I truly struggled with the decision [of whether] to remain a purist, or usher in an aesthetic update and paint the knotty pine paneling. The wood floors were stunning and the paneling fought with the floor. I wanted the floors to stand out as a design element; so I asked for forgiveness, and decided to paint,” Lisa said. Two days of sanding, three tubes of latex caulk, two coats of shellac-based primer/sealer to keep the knot holes from bleeding through, and two coats of paint later, the living room paneling project was completed.

“Steve and I had a few discussions on whether to remove or rehab the tongue-and-groove dark wood paneling in the dining room,” she said. “It was saved, restored and painted to showcase the tongue-and-groove lines and wood grain.”

Lisa ushered in vintage décor, including a cherished 40-inch, persimmon Viking glass vase she bought with her grandma in the 1960s. She coordinated the delivery and installation of their present-day purchases, readying the home for its big reveal.

Lisa and Steve learned during the June-to-January renovation that the original owner’s daughter lives across the street. “Getting the stamp of approval from someone who holds cherished memories of growing up in the home feels so special—it’s a privilege,” Lisa said. “Best of all, she was elated we got rid of the hideous remodeled kitchen she always hated. Some bits of history don’t need repeating.” ☀

# Airy & Bright

An East Coast home is rescued from a bad remodel and revived—with all eyes on its post-and-beam architecture.

text | Michelle Gringeri-Brown and Sarah Jane Stone

images | Jennifer Hughes



Lisa and Scott have kept the space minimal and light—causing the eye to be drawn to the original beams overhead, which extend to the back patio just on the other side of the glass wall.



# FOR A FULL YEAR,

Lisa and Scott Keogh hunted for their perfect home. With a specific area as their end goal, they discovered that it predominantly featured Colonial-style homes. Finally, they stumbled upon a midcentury house in their ideal neighborhood—located right outside Washington, D.C., on the Virginia side.

## PRIORITIZING PROJECTS

Lisa, an executive chef, and Scott, an automotive executive, along with their two young children, moved into the Northern Virginia house in 2010. Since then, they have been addressing its needs one by one, with plenty of tender loving care and a touch of modern style.

Built in 1964, the Keoghs' home has five bedrooms and four-and-a-half baths. "It definitely needed some TLC," Lisa said. "There was a remodel done in the '90s, however, a lot of that work was not done correctly." Lisa and Scott basically redid the entire home, to better honor the original architecture as well as meet their modern needs.

Landscaping kicked off their extremely hands-on renovation process. Upon move-in, the landscaping was in what Lisa describes as "desperate shape." They immediately took to regaining the home's curb appeal by reworking the front yard, also revising the sides of the house and the back garden. "We hired a professional stonemason who cut the stones for our walking paths by hand." Feeding into Lisa's culinary expertise, a vegetable-and-herb garden was added.

With the couple working in stages moving throughout the house, 2011 marked the completion of the master bedroom, bath and staircase. "In 2014 we

LOOKING AT THE OVERALL VIEW OF THE KITCHEN, THE SIZE OF THE ROOM CAN MAKE IT SEEM AS THOUGH THE KITCHEN WAS EXPANDED INTO ANOTHER ROOM WITH A DIVIDING WALL TAKEN DOWN. ACTUALLY, IT WAS ALL ONE ROOM. "THE WALL THAT HAS THE OPEN CABINETS AND WINE REFRIGERATOR WAS ALWAYS THERE—WE JUST ADDED THE LOWER CABINETS AND SHELVES TO MAKE IT INTO A MORE USABLE SPACE," LISA SAID.





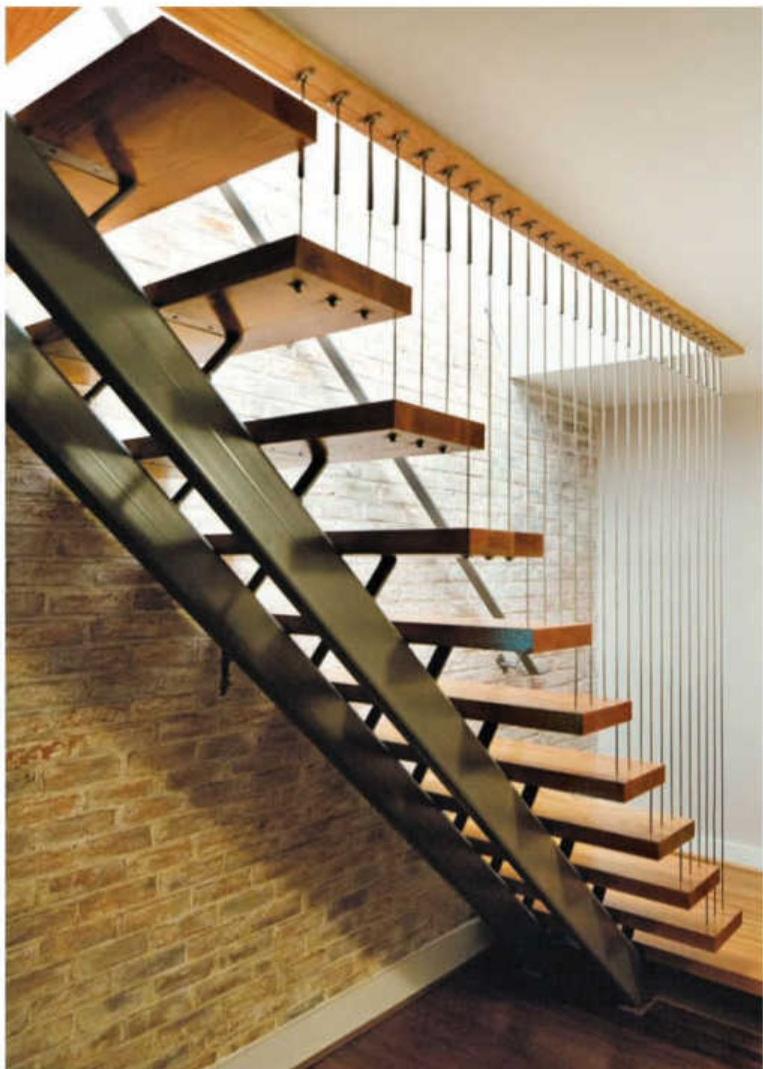


DESPITE BEING LARGER THAN THE TYPICAL APPLIANCE, LISA OPTED FOR A PROFESSIONAL-GRADE STOVE AND REFRIGERATOR. "I DECIDED ON THE WOLF AND SUB ZERO APPLIANCES BECAUSE I HAVE WORKED WITH THEM IN MANY PROFESSIONAL KITCHENS, AND I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED IN MY DECISION."



**"There was a remodel done in  
the '90s, however, a lot of that  
work was not done correctly."**

Lisa and Scott added the wooden beam in the master bedroom to complement the other beams that already existed in the home.



completed the kitchen and in 2015 we completed the new lower-level guest quarters," she said. While Lisa and Scott designed most of the house, including the living and dining rooms, architect Pierre Albert Winter helped the couple to recreate the master bedroom, bathroom, staircase and some of the lower level.

#### CUSTOM CULINARY EXPERIENCE

As a chef, a well-designed kitchen topped Lisa's must-have list. She partnered with Erin Hoopes from Moss Building & Design of Chantilly, VA to bring her dream space to life.

"The kitchen was in decent shape but the space was not being utilized correctly. The stove was placed in this cramped corner and there were hanging cabinets that closed in the space even more," Lisa said. The '90s black cabinets unnecessarily darkened the naturally bright space and turned the large space into a chopped-up design.

Working from her experience in professional kitchens, Lisa partnered on the design of her home's kitchen so as to bring in her favorite functional elements from these spaces. Open shelves, a Wolf oven and a faucet with multiple positions were on her wish list—but so was honoring the original design.

"Of course we are always inspired by the original bones of the home and looked for ways to complement the Midcentury Modern design," Lisa said. "For instance, I generally chose designs that won't overwhelm the space and that don't block the wonderful windows and natural light."

A suggestion to expand the kitchen counters, which would have cut into the windows of the kitchen, was immediately turned down in favor of keeping the original architecture. "I have plenty of counter space, and my

beautiful wall of windows has stayed intact." Solid surface counters and custom cabinets by Moss Building & Design finish out the kitchen's redesign.

## STYLING FOR LIFE

As in the kitchen, large windows are the focal point of the living room. Lisa and Scott have kept the space minimal and light—causing the eye to be drawn to the original beams overhead, which extend to the back patio just on the other side of the glass wall.

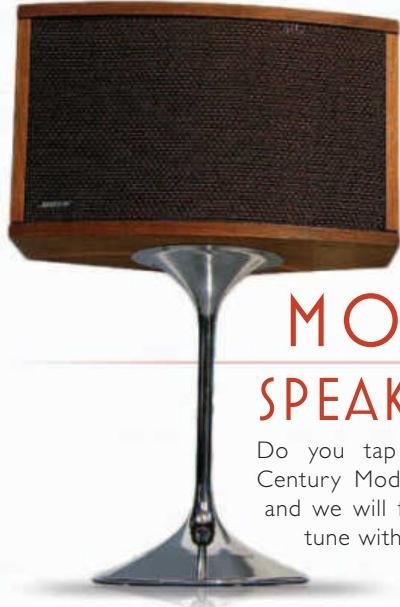
Overall, Lisa and Scott have kept the home's style clean and simple. The home is serene, crisp and calm—a perfect backdrop to the family's busy life. Minimal styling lets the sloped ceilings, beams and countless windows be the true focal point of every room. ☀





THE WALLS OF WINDOWS, THE POST-AND-BEAM CONSTRUCTION AND THE FAÇADE WERE ALL MAJOR ORIGINAL ELEMENTS THAT THE KEOGHS WERE CAREFUL TO KEEP INTACT.





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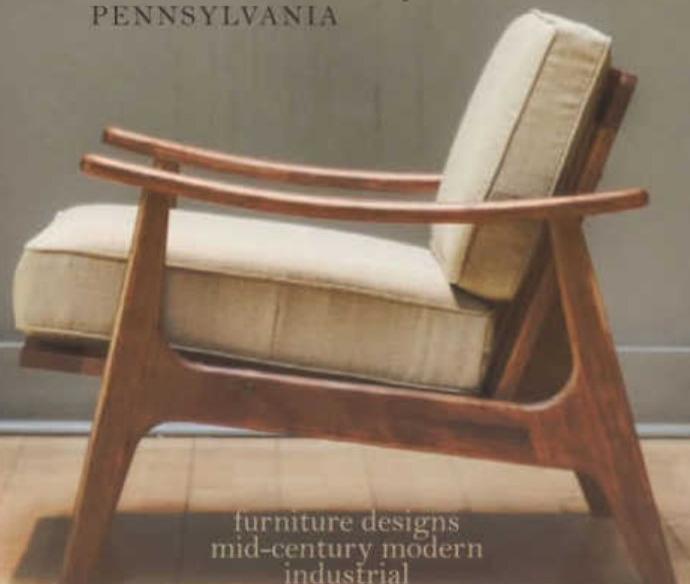
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# GONE SHOPPING

text | Sarah Jane Stone

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## Mid Mod Collective

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Having recently celebrated its first year, owner Allyson Virden describes Mid Mod Collective as truly being a collective. With ten partners and several consigning vendors, shoppers can browse a wide variety of midcentury treasures.

"I have a true passion for Midcentury Modern [style]—my entire house is decorated with some of the great pieces we have found," Allyson says. "We all love the hunt for unique pieces and the thrill

of seeing them once we have breathed new life into them."

**Shop Secret:** The store is located in an old automotive garage that was in business for 50 years.

**What you'll find:** Looking by maker? Pieces from Adrian Pearsall, Herman Miller and Folke Ohlsson are often available as well as companies such as Broyhill, Lane, American of Martinsville, plus many unique Danish modern designs.

For more on Mid Mod Collective, call (865) 557-5575 or visit [midmodcollective.com](http://midmodcollective.com)

## Furnish Me Vintage

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Jacqueline Williams and her husband Todd Wilson first opened Furnish Me Vintage in 2011.

They had purchased a 1950s house but furniture shopping at the usual places led to disappointment, so they turned to antiques shops. "We soon discovered Midcentury Modern, which seemed to have the answers to everything we were looking for: quality craftsmanship and impeccable design." The couple began collecting, and quickly filled their house. To make way for new pieces they had to sell previous pieces—which led to opening a small store. "Fast forward five years, and we now have a four-story

Midcentury Modern store that is arguably the largest in the nation," she says.

**Shop Secret:** "Our building actually used to be a furniture store, and sometimes we find pieces that came from this same store 50 years ago," Jacqueline says. "It's neat to bring these pieces back home and restore them to their former glory. The circle of life in action!"

**What you'll find:** Furnish Me Vintage specializes in Midcentury Modern and Danish furniture. "What makes us different is that nearly all of our pieces are restored or in excellent original condition—many folks mistake our items for new since they look near-pristine," she says.

For more on Furnish Me Vintage, call (727) 898-8740 or visit [furnishmenvintage.com](http://furnishmenvintage.com).



## The Purple Moon

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

The Purple Moon began in 2001 when collectors Chuck & Connie Hamsher started selling online from their kitchen table. They quickly expanded, first to several antique malls and then to a storefront gallery in downtown Charleston, WV in 2005. After several expansions, The Purple Moon's current location is over 6,000 square feet of Midcentury Modern design, furnishings, accessories and art.

"In addition to being our business, Midcentury Modern is our passion and we enjoy working with seasoned collectors as well as exposing new people to these wonderful and functional designs," Chuck says. "We work with our clients not just in selling them pieces, but also by helping them incorporate great vintage style into their homes."



**Shop Secret:** The Purple Moon got its name from the owner's cat—which was named "Io" after the early photos of Jupiter's moon, Io.

**What you'll find:** Curated based on design, style and condition, the shop offers case goods by Widdicomb, Broyhill, Drexel and other midcentury manufacturers as well as items from Paul McCobb, Russel Wright, RH Robsjohn Gibbings and other designers. They also carry new, upholstered furniture from Joybird and Lazar's BKind3 Line by Carl Gustafson along with many vintage accent pieces.

For more on The Purple Moon, call (304) 345-0123 or visit [thepurplemoon.com](http://thepurplemoon.com).



## Lily Pad

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Jennifer Koppen opened Lily Pad in June 2015, following a longtime love of midcentury style and leaving over 20 years in the corporate world. "People would always tell me that I should open a midcentury store, so at this point in my life it was now or never," Jennifer says. She chose Austin for its rapid growth and because of the city's shared interest in midcentury style. "The pieces at Lily Pad are unique, rare, nostalgic and are likely to inspire a revamp of some room in your house that just doesn't quite have the flair you are seeking, and you will never see two of the same items."

**Shop Secret:** "Lily Pad is actually named after my eleven-year-old daughter, Lily."

**What you'll find:** "We have furniture for the person who can only afford to spend \$50 for a chair, and we have furniture for the person who wants to add a real heirloom to their collection," she says. Items from Herman Miller, Finn Juhl, Adrian Pearsall, Knoll, Broyhill Brasilia, Heywood Wakefield, Bassett, Lane, American of Martinsville, Heritage, Hollywood Regency and Steelcase are commonly found at the shop.

For more on Lily Pad, call (512) 924-9479 or visit [lilypadaustin.com](http://lilypadaustin.com).

## Mid Century Møbler

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Mid Century Møbler began six years ago out of a one-car garage in San Francisco, Calif. Originally, owner Julian Goldklang was looking to sell off pieces from his overflowing personal collection, but it quickly became a full time job and in 2012, Julian and his wife Desirée opened a showroom. Now located in Berkeley, Calif., shoppers can browse a 7,500-square-foot showroom filled to the brim with midcentury pieces that the couple sources from across Scandinavia and the UK.

"I've always been enamored by design from the 1950s and 1960s. The quality of materials used and the simplicity, and sometimes eccentricity, of the atomic era has always fascinated me," Julian says.

**Shop Secret:** It's the shop's goal to have every customer leave with a better understanding and appreciation for mid-century design. "Everyone who works at



Mid Century Møbler has a strong passion for design, and is eager to share their knowledge and the history of the furniture with our clients," he says.

**What you'll find:** With furniture as their main focus, Mid Century Møbler always has a large stock—including pieces from high-end and lesser-known designers as well as those from unknown cabinetmakers.

For more information on Midcentury Møbler, call (415) 497-6626 or else visit [midcenturymobler.com](http://midcenturymobler.com)



# CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPES

Achieve your Midcentury Modern ideals outside of the home by drawing from this exterior designer and his Florida showpiece.

**text |** Elizabeth T. Pardo

**images |** Ryan Gamma

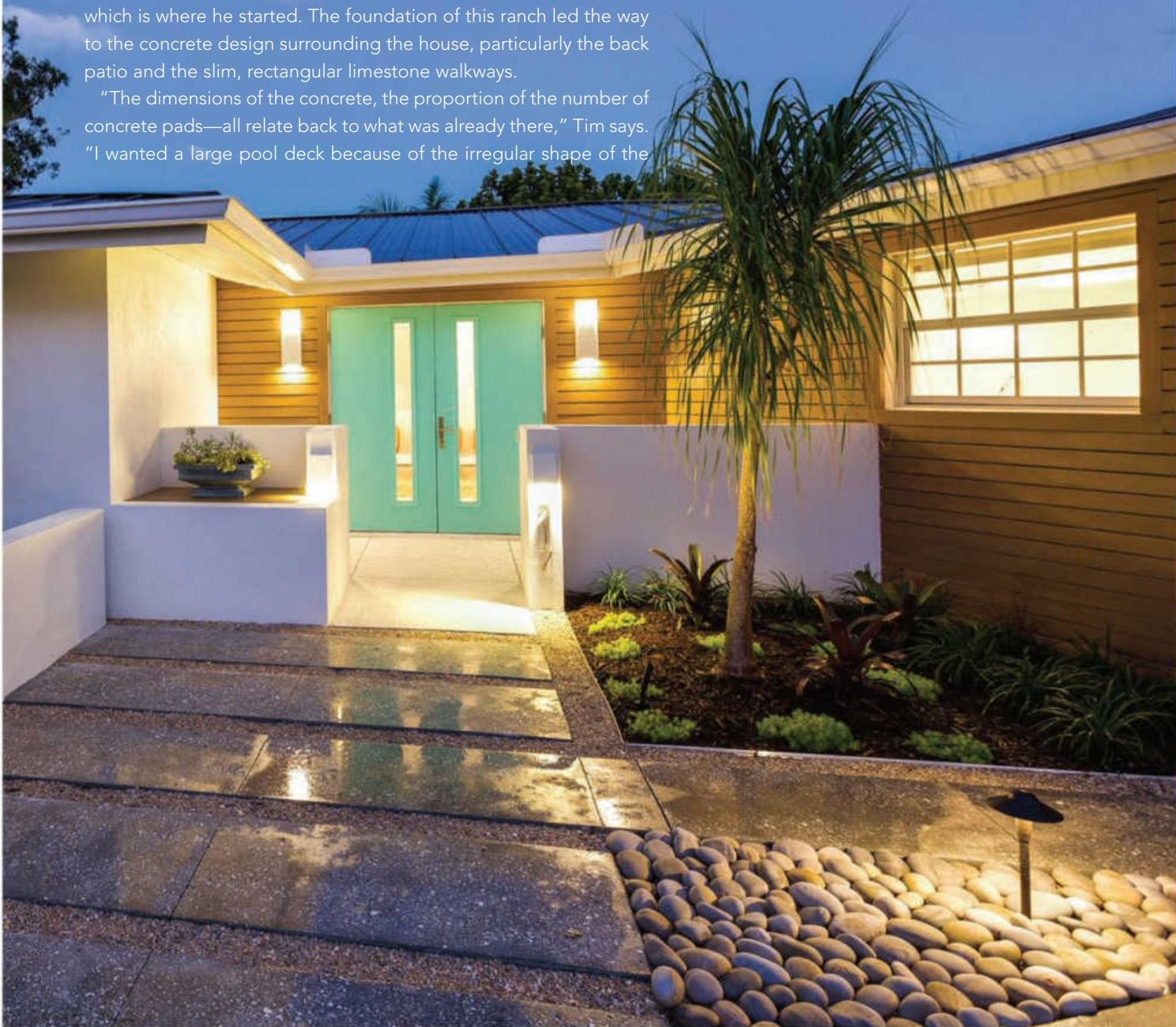
## HERE YOU ARE, THE PROUD HOMEOWNER OF A MIDCENTURY MASTERPIECE.

Whether it's in tip-top condition or needs renovation, you care about the contemporary style showcased within.

But what about the exterior of the house—wondering where to start with your landscaping? Take it from Tim Borden, founder of Borden Landscape Design in Sarasota, Florida.

Tim recommends drawing inspiration from the house itself—which is where he started. The foundation of this ranch led the way to the concrete design surrounding the house, particularly the back patio and the slim, rectangular limestone walkways.

"The dimensions of the concrete, the proportion of the number of concrete pads—all relate back to what was already there," Tim says. "I wanted a large pool deck because of the irregular shape of the



THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SLIM RECTANGULAR WALKWAYS WAS ALREADY IN PLACE WHEN TIM WAS GIVEN THE LANDSCAPING JOB. HE USED GEOMETRY TO HIS ADVANTAGE TO CREATE THE DISTINCTIVE FRONT YARD.

pool itself. There needed to be a background, so to speak, and the geometry of the lot and the house dictated the need for a triangular shape."

For a home located on the Bird Key, Tim took his cues from the elements themselves. "This climate was about nearly continuous breezes, full sun throughout the day and cool, crisp evenings. It lends itself to engaging the outdoors, so I created spaces around the entire property to experience those rooms," he says. "Creating these outdoor rooms gave the users the ability to go outside and walk through them, when most people in Florida in the summer months more than likely would be inside."

While upholding the classic design elements of the house, Tim did go slightly off the blueprints when designing the exterior of the house—specifically, the shutters. He recognizes that this addition is not pure in terms of design, but the shutters serve a purpose. "Here in Florida, we experience challenging weather from time to time and our architecture should evolve, using modern technology to address these concerns," Tim says. "The use of louvered shutters plays a role in allowing the breezes to flow into the interior rooms but diverts away the heating sun rays."

Use this same meticulous energy from your interior design to create the perfect Midcentury Modern design outdoors. ☀

## TIM'S LANDSCAPING ESSENTIALS

**Keep these landscaping elements in mind to ensure that your outdoor décor complements your Midcentury Modern home look.**

Tim Borden, owner of Borden Landscape Design, has been creating beautiful outdoor spaces for over two decades and is no stranger to the Midcentury Modern style. "I was lucky enough to have owned a 1958 mid-century several years ago and fell in love," Tim says.

### ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED

Consider what you are trying to achieve with your outdoor design before you jump in headfirst. Do you want it to match your interior design? Do you want it to showcase a certain midcentury theme, such as geometric lines? Ask yourself these questions and keep them at the forefront of your design.

### WITH A LITTLE HELP

Don't hesitate to ask for help from friends, neighbors and family! Sometimes, a second opinion will give you a better angle on the atomic look that you are trying to achieve.

### TAKE A BREATH

If your look isn't coming together quite the way you want it to, don't fret. Step away from the design for a little while—come back to it after a few days. With a clear head, you will be able to conquer your exterior and create dreamy curb appeal.



TIM USED PLANTS NATIVE TO THE  
MICROCLIMATE OF THE FLORIDA  
COAST TO ENSURE THAT THEY  
THRIVE AND SURVIVE THE CHAL-  
LENGING FLORIDA WEATHER.

# ENGAGING THE OUTDOORS

Check out these three easy tips on how to ensure you use the right plants for your outdoor décor.

A STUNNING SHOWCASE OF MIDCENTURY MODERN, THE TRIANGULAR PATIO HIGHLIGHTS TIM'S THOUGHTFUL USE OF THE CONTEMPORARY RANCH DESIGN WITHOUT TAKING AWAY FROM THE BEAUTY OF THE GREENERY AROUND IT.

## COMFORT ZONE

Find out which zone you live in before buying and planting. Use plants native to your climate to make sure that your contemporary ranch landscape is easy to maintain, long-lasting and lush.

## BE NEIGHBORLY

One of the best ways to see what plants thrive in your climate is to take a look around the neighborhood. Which of your neighbors' plants are doing well? If you're new to planting on your property, ask neighbors or talk to your local nursery about the soil type as well.

## PLANT PURPOSE

Plants come in a variety of shapes and sizes—and even purposes. Are you planting for their beautiful blooms alone? Looking to provide shade? Do you have pets likely to munch on fresh greens? Knowing a plant's purpose and the estimated size to which it will grow once it's out of its plastic nursery pot will further help you to make informed decisions on what to plant and where.





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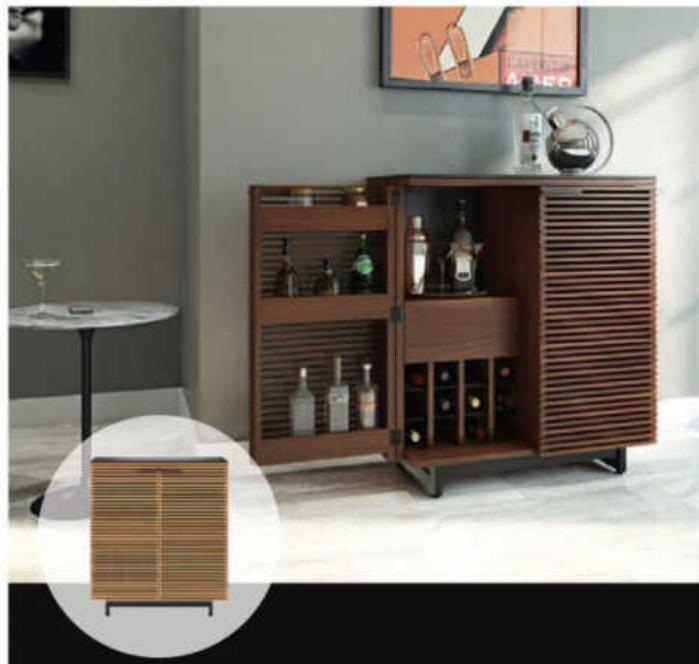
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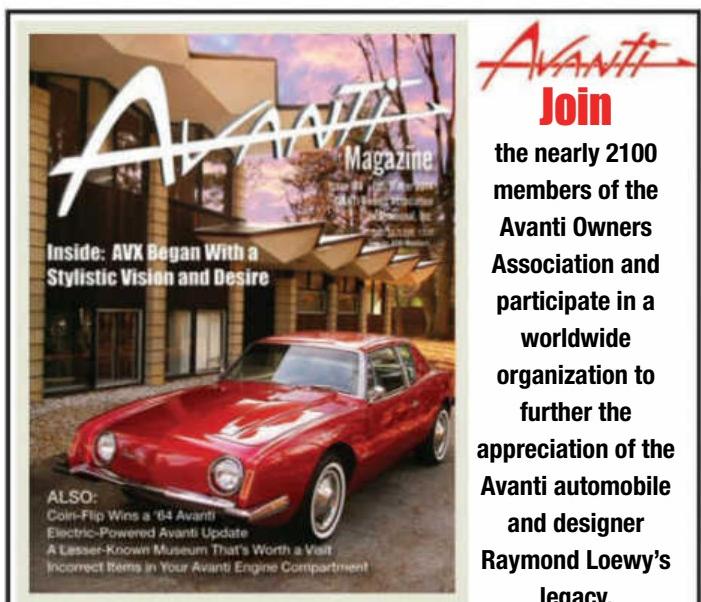
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# ranchdressing

**Julian and Desiree Goldklang, of Mid Century Møbler, share their expert knowledge by answering your questions about unique and unmarked midcentury treasures.**

**Q:**

I purchased this piece at a local thrift store about 15 years ago. I fell in love when I first laid eyes on it and paid \$6. Most of my friends rolled their eyes and some failed to recognize this as boats approaching a dock. Fast-forward to just recently, I accidentally found something on eBay that looked like the same artist and style, but bigger. It referenced a signature and, lo and behold, that was the signature on my piece—I had just never noticed it before.

I started to research, but came up mostly empty-handed. The "Wilrongo" name is also referenced alongside "Witco." I found several more pieces on eBay but none that matched mine, and the Internet provided no background on whoever produced these. Could you provide me some info on the piece and what its potential value is? It is in the original frame.

Thanks,

THOMAS WARFEL, COLUMBUS, OH

**A:** Great find! "Witco" stands for Western International Trading Company. Witco began as a South Pacific trading company, importing tiki and local artisans' work. The company later evolved to offer their own carvings made with chainsaws and finished by hand. Many of the pieces produced were signed Wilrongo. Wilrongo was a combination of the owners and artists' names—William Westernhaver, who was the founder of Witco, Ron Hovde, and Gordon Robb.

Witco made pieces from swamp cedar sourced near their production plant in Mt. Vernon, Washington. This wood was inexpensive, easy to carve, and showed raised grain after burning—as seen in the wood of the large boat in the foreground. Since a niche audience collects Witco, prices range upon rarity, complexity and subject matter. This piece would probably range anywhere from \$50-\$200.

—Desiree

OWNER, MID CENTURY MØBLER



## Quick Facts!

**Here's a little extra information on Witco and the tiki trend:**

- The tiki "craze" began in the 1930s with tourists and became extremely popular after WWII when many servicemen brought home small tikis and wood-carvings from the South Pacific.
- Amongst their most popular products were Witco's wall hangings, sculptures and furniture collections.
- Witco furnished Elvis's "Jungle Room" at Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee.

*For more on Mid Century Møbler, visit midcenturymobler.com.*

## Designer Profile: **Ole Wanscher**

**Take a peek at the man behind the Senator.**

Once in a while you come across a piece of furniture that truly epitomizes a mastery of design. This particular example is the rocking-chair version from Ole Wanscher's Senator line, designed in 1951.

Ole Wanscher's father, a historian, and Kaare Klint, under whom Ole studied, gave him a deep knowledge of historical furniture forms. Ole had an appreciation for 18th-century English, Chinese, Egyptian and Greek forms—which is subtly apparent in almost all of his work.

Under Kaare's tutelage, Ole studied anthropometrics—also known as the study of human measurements. Ole also worked with cabinetmaker A.J. Iversen, who taught him the skills of master joinery. Designed in 1951 as Model 116 for France and Son, Ole's Senator Chair showcases the result of these studies.

Ole was not only a furniture designer, but also a historian who published several books on the history of furniture. After Kaare's death, Ole went on to replace him as professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.

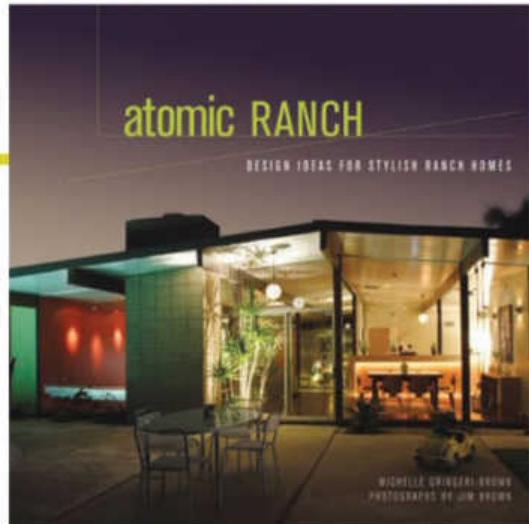
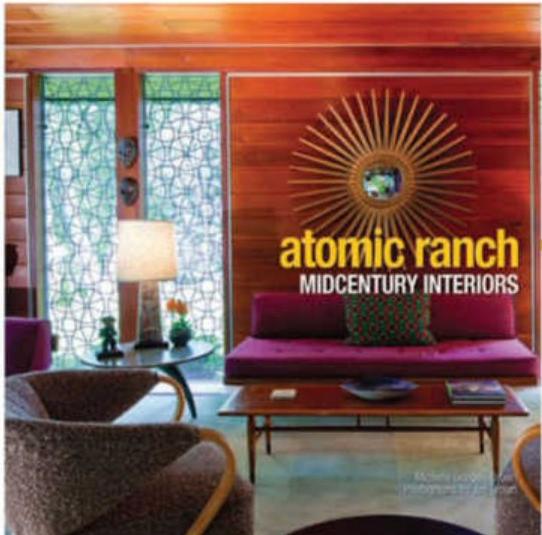


Do you have a great piece that you'd love to know more about? Send a photo and your question to [editor@atomic-ranch.com](mailto:editor@atomic-ranch.com).

# books&backs

## Atomic Ranch: DESIGN IDEAS FOR STYLISH RANCH HOMES

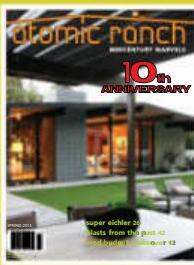
Plenty of ranches from our early issues to inspire you: modern kitchens and baths, DIY landscaping and tips on pulling together a retro interior. Resources, history, decorating on a dime—it's got it all. Michelle Gringeri-Brown & Jim Brown, hardcover, color and b&w photos, 192 pp., \$40



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# resources

## Preservation & Personality, pp. 18-29

**Dining room:** Original buffet and mirror. Vintage sputnik chandelier, oak floors, vintage bar, dining room table DWR, mix of vintage walnut chairs including Cherner end chairs, Widdicomb bench in foyer above. • **Living room:** Original flagstone fireplace. Bitossi bowl, walnut console, Finn Juhl Japan chair (Gold fabric), Jonathan Adler lamp in foreground on vintage Robsjohn Gibbings table, Mitchell Gold sofa, Paul McCobb coffee table, Pottery Barn rug, pair of Paul McCobb stools. • **Corner chair:** vintage Peter Hvidt. Frank Gehry wiggle stool under window. Jonathan Adler horse and red cubes on fireplace. • **Glass den:** Jonathan Adler screen, red oak floors, vintage Pierre Jeanneret for Knoll scissor chair, vintage Zebra pillow, vintage Knoll Barcelona daybed, George Nelson clock, Crate & Barrel rug, Mitchell Gold sofa, Knoll Platner chair, George Nelson table, Bitossi Sahara table lamp, vintage tulip stool, vintage Karel Appel lithograph. • **Kitchen:** Original clock, hood. Cork floors, quartz countertops, glass backsplash, maple cabinets. • **Catwalk:** Mitchell gold console table, C. Jere brass sunburst, Modernica planter, vintage oil painting. • **Family Room:** Original Cado wall unit. Knoll Womb Chair in Cato orange fabric, George Nelson ball clock, vintage T-chair. • **Master Bedroom:** Flea market painting. • **Master • Bedroom:** Grass cloth wall behind the bed, upholstered bed, Paul McCobb end tables, Jonathan Adler starburst mirror. • **Guest Bedroom:** Jonathan Adler vase, vintage glass vase, West Elm curtains, vintage Thonet chair painted yellow, Crate & Barrel blanket, bedside lamp found at auction, Wallpaper is Rina pattern by Antonina Vella Contempo. **Doggies:** Sophie and Sasha.

## California Color, pp. 46-53

**Kitchen bar stools:** Fredric Weinberg, designer. • **Enamel on Copper plate:** Convivial ware. Designed by Vreni. • **Stereo:** Morse Sterophonic. • **The back of the double headboard in**

**the bedroom with the starburst surrounds** says "GO Panel HB LA Period Furniture 53." **Orange and white coffee / demitasse server** has a very small gold and white sticker on the bottom of the carafe, in the shape of a four-leaf clover. The initials M, O and C are in each petal with "Japan" in the bottom petal. **Other vendors:** B&W Tile in Riverside, CA. Comstock Plumbing in Fullerton, CA. Don's Cabinets in Bellflower, CA. ModWalls. Yorba Linda Heating and Air in Yorba Linda, CA

## Airy & Bright, pp. 54-63

Moss Building & Design of Chantilly, VA; mossbuildinganddesign.com. • **Architect:** Pierre Albert Winter. • **Front door:** Borano Door, Stockholm model. • **Wall photography:** Cuban photography, artist unknown. • **Living room sofa:** Theatre sofa designed by Ted Boerner. • **Creme chair and ottoman:** Italian design piece bought at Lexington Avenue Armory, New York City. • **Living room coffee table:** midcentury Danish, bought in Alexandria, VA. • **Accent table:** Danish piece bought in Germany, 1969. • **Bedroom:** bed custom-made by Daniel Donnelly, Alexandria, VA. • **Staircase:** custom.

## Gone Shopping, pp. 66-67

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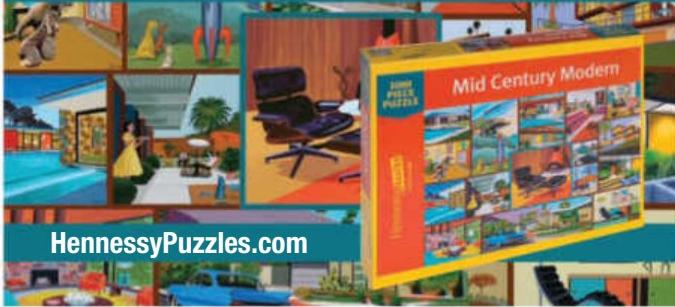
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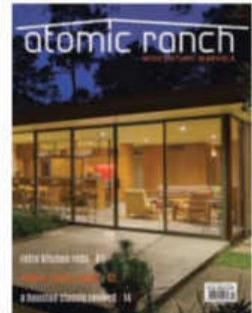


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# last look

## THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

An enterprising designer creates an homage to mid-century style that reaches far beyond her front door.

text | GRACE SHACKMAN, HEAD OF A2MODERN

images | KELLY SALCHOW MACARTHUR

**WHEN KELLY SALCHOW MACARTHUR NEEDED A CURBSIDE MAILBOX** for the Midcentury Modern house she shares with her husband, Jay and their two children, she researched what was available locally, online and in magazines. Most followed the standard 1915 U.S. Postal Service specs of a rectangular interior and arched-tunnel roof, and the few new concepts that she came across didn't excite her.

As an Associate Professor of Graphic Design at Michigan State University, Kelly's client work is primarily two-dimensional, but she had been exploring the integration of two and three dimensions in her teaching and research for several years. She soon decided to create a mailbox specifically for her home.

Their house in Ann Arbor, Mich. was designed by modernist architect Tivadar Balogh in an unusual trapezoid shape. After months of planning and experimentation, she settled on a design that aligns with the roof's tilt. That angle carries through the form, including a void in the door that serves as a hand space. The metal wrap around the post and the overhang of the box's roof ensure protection while adding aesthetic nuances.

As Kelly's work sabbatical approached, she realized that this project could be expanded into the community. She decided to produce six mailboxes, tailored as "functional, yet sculptural" pieces for modernist houses. She avoided fully imitating the architecture, instead using it as a creative starting point.

To find suitably inspirational homes, Kelly conferred with Nancy Deromedi, who was the head of volunteer organization a2modern. Nancy chose examples

from four local architects: George Brigham, Robert Metcalf, David Osler and Alden Dow. Brigham is credited with introducing modern style to Ann Arbor when he came from Cal Tech to join the University of Michigan faculty in 1930. Metcalf and Osler were the two leading practitioners of modern architecture in the Post-WWII era. Midland-based Dow, who studied under Frank Lloyd Wright, also designed some unique houses in the area.

Kelly's design process lasted about six months. Five of the mailboxes are made of 16-gauge brushed stainless steel. Powder coating adds durable color to some areas (while allowing for future recoating or color changes). The address numbers on each box were given special consideration, and were fabricated in steel, copper, Plexiglas or reflective vinyl.

Nancy and her husband, David, were Kelly's first commission. The mailbox she created for their home mimics the long low structure and wide eaves of their 1950 Brigham house. "It's like my own personal sculpture," David says.

Kelly found as she worked with each of the owners that the designs turned out to be more of a collaborative process than she had envisioned. Plus, the user experience created by these mailboxes is quite different than the ubiquitous object she was so keen to replace. The mailboxes have been popular conversation pieces, as well as winning multiple awards, and she is keeping her eye out for future sites and collaborators. To see more of her work, visit [elevatedesign.org](http://elevatedesign.org).

*Nancy Deromedi passed away in October of 2014, just as her mailbox was completed. For more information on the ongoing community projects that Nancy championed, visit [a2modern.org](http://a2modern.org).*





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